THE PETITION

of both Houſes of Parliament,

(26)

Preſented to *His Majeſty* at *Yorke*, March 26. 1642.
With His Majeſties Anſwer thereunto: And the Petition of the Noblemen and Gentlemen eſtated in *Ireland*, and now in *LONDON*.

And likewiſe a Petition of the County of *Lincolne*, with His *MAIESTIES* ſeverall and reſpective Anſwers thereunto:



Printed at *London* for *Francis Cowles*, and *Thomas Banks*. 1642.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons assembled in PARLIAMENT.

May it please your Majesty,



Our Majesties most loyall Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament, cannot conceive that the Declaration which Your Majesty received from us at *New-market*, was such as did deserve that Censure Your Majesty was pleased to lay upon us, in that Speech which Your Majesty made to our Committees there, and sent in writing to both Houses; Our addresse therein being accompanied with Plainenesse, Humility, and Faithfulnesse, we thought more proper for the removing the distraction of the Kingdome, then if we had then proceeded according to Your Majesties Message of the 20. of *January*, by which Your Majesty was pleased to desire, That Wee would declare what we intended to doe for Your Majesty, and what we expected to bee done for our selves, in both which we have bin very much hindred by Your Majesties denyall to secure us and the whole Kingdome, by disposing the *Militia*, as we had divers times most humbly Petitioned, and yet we have not bin altogether negligent of either having lately made good proceedings in preparing a Booke of Rates to be passed in a Bill of Tonnage and Poundage; and likewise the most materiall Heads of those humble desires which wee intended to make to Your *Majesty* for the good and contentment of Your *Majesty* and your People, but none of these could be perfected before the Kingdome be put into safety, by setling the *Militia*: And untill your Majesty shall be pleased to concurre with Your Parliament in these necessary things, We hold it impossible for you to give the World, or Your People such satisfaction concerning the Feares and Jealousies which We have expressed, as wee hope Your *Majesty* hath already received touching that exception which You were pleased to take to *Mr. Pyms* Speech.

As for Your Majesties feares and doubts, the ground whereof is from Seditious Pamphlets and Sermons, We shall be as carefull to endeavour the removall of them, assoone as wee shall understand what Pamphlets and Sermons are by Your Majesty intended, as we have bin to prevent all dangerous Tumults: And if any extraordinary concourse of people out of the City of Westminster, *had the face and shew of Tumult and danger in Your Majesties apprehension, it will appeare to be caused by Your Majesties denyall of such a Guard to Your Parliament as they might have cause to confide in; And by taking into* White-Hall *such a Guard for Your selfe as gave just cause of Jealousie to the Parliament, and of terrour and offence to Your People. Wee seeke nothing but Your Majesties Honour, and the peace and prosperity of Your Kingdomes; And we are heartily sorry we have such plentifull matter of an answer to that question,* Whether you had violated our Lawes.

Wee beseech Your Majesty to remember that the Government of this Kingdome, as it was in a great part managed by Your Ministers before the beginning of this Parliament, consisted of many continued and multiplyed acts of violation of Lawes, the wounds whereof were scarcely healed

healed; when the extremity of all those violations was far exceeded by the late strange and unheard of breach of our Lawes in the accusation of the Lord Kimbolton, and the five Members of the Commons-House, and in the proceedings thereupon, for which we have yet received no full satisfaction.

To Your Majesties next Question, Whether You had denyed any Bill for the ease and security of Your Subjects, Wee wish we could stop in the midst of our answer, That with much thankfulnesse we acknowledge that Your Majesty hath past many good Bills full of contentment, and advantage to Your People; But truth and necessity inforceth us to adde this, That even in or about the time of passing those Bills, some designe or other hath bin on foot, which if it had taken effect, would not onely have deprived us of the fruit of those Bills, but have reduced us to a worse condition of confusion then that wherein the Parliament found us.

And if Your Majesty had asked us the third question intimated in that Speech, What we had done for Your Selfe, our Answer would have bin much more easie, That we have paid two Armies, wherewith the Kingdome was but thened last yeare; And have undergone the charge of the Warre in Ireland at this time; When through many other excessive Charges and Pressures, whereby Your Subjects have bin exhausted, and the Stocke of the Kingdome very much diminished: Which great mischiefes and the charges thereupon ensuing, have bin occasioned by the evill Counsells so powerfull with Your Majesty, which have, and will cost this Kingdome more then two Millions: All which in Iustice ought to have bin born by Your Majesty.

As for that free and generall Pardon Your Majesty hath bin pleased to offer, it can bee no security to our Feares and Iealousies, for which Your Majesty seemes to propound it, because they arise not from any guilt of our owne Actions, but from the evill Designes and Attempts of others.

To this our humble Answer to that Speech, we desire to adde an Information which we lately received from the deputy Governour of the Merchant Adventurers at Rotterdam in Holland, That an unknowne person appertayning to the Lord Digby, did lately solicite one Iames Henley, a Mariner to goe to Elsenore, and to take charge of a Ship in the Fleet of the King of Denmarke there prepared, which he should conduct to Hull: In which Fleet likewise, he said a great Army was to be transported. And although we are not apt to give credit to Informations of this nature, yet we cannot altogether thinke it fit to be neglected, but that it may justly adde somewhat to the weight of our Feares and Iealousies, considering with what circumstances it is accompanied, with the Lord Digbies preceding Expressions in his letter to Her Majesty, and Sir Lewis Dives. And Your Majesties succeeding course of withdrawing Your Selfe Northward from your Your Parliament, in a manner very sutable, and correspondent to that evill Counsell.

Which we doubt will make much deeper impression in the generality of your People; And therefore we most humbly advise and beseech Your Majesty for the procuring and setling the confidence of Your Parliament, and all Your Subjects, and for the other important reasons, concerning the recovery of Ireland, and securing this Kingdome, which have bin formerly presented to Your Majesty, You will be graciously pleased (with all convenient speed) to returne to these parts, and to close with the Counsell and desire of Your Parliament, where You shall finde their dutifull affections, and endeavours ready to attend Your Majesty with such entertainement, as shall not onely give Your Majesty just cause of security in their faithfulnesse, but other manifold evidences of their earnest intentions and endeavours to advance Your Majesties Service, Honour, and contentment, and to establish it upon the sure foundation of the Peace and Prosperity of all your Kingdomes.

His Majesties Answer to the Petition of both Houses of Parliament, Presented to him at York on Saturday the 26. of March, 1642. by the Lord *Willoughby*, Lord *Dungarvan*, and Sir *Anthony Irby*.

IF you would have had the patience to have expected Our Answer to your last Declaration (which considering the nature of it, hath not been long in coming) We believe you would have saved your selves the labour of saying much of this Message. And We could wish that Our Priviledges on all parts were so Stated, that this way of Correspondency might be preserved with that freedome which hath been used of old; For we must tel you, that if you may ask any thing of us by Message or Petition, and in what language (how unusuall soever) you think fit, and We must neither deny the thing you aske, nor give a reason why Wee cannot grant it, without being taxed of breaking your Priviledges, or being counselled by those who are enemies to the peace of the Kingdome, and favourers of the Irish Rebellion (for We have seene your printed Votes upon Our Message from *Hunnington*) you will reduce all our answers hereafter into a very little roome; In plaine English, it is to take away the freedome of Our Vote, which were we but a Subject, were high Injustice; but being your King, Wee leave all the world to judge what it is.

Is this the way to compose all misunderstandings? We thought We shewed you one by our Message of the 20. of January, if you have a better or readier, Wee shall willingly hearken to it, for hitherto you have shewed Vs none. But why the refusall to consent to your Order, (which you call a denyall of the *Militia*) should bee any interruption to it, We cannot understand. For the *Militia* (which we alwayes thought necessary to be setled) Wee never denyed the thing, (as we told you in Our Answer of the 28. of January, to the Petition of the House of Commons, for We accepted the persons, (except for Corporations) We onely deemed the way, You aske it by way of Ordinance, and with such a Preface as we can neither with Iustice to Our Honour, or innocency consent to: You exclude Vs for any power in the disposition or execution of it, together with you, and for a time utterly unlimitted. Wee tell you Wee would have the thing done; Allow the person (with that exception,) desire a Bill (the onely good old way of imposing on our Subjects.) Wee are extremely unsatisfied what an Ordinance is, but well satisfied, that without Our Consent it is nothing, not binding: And it is evident by the long time spent in this Argument, the necessity and danger was not so imminent, but a Bill might have well been prepared, which if it shall yet bee done with that due regard to Vs, and care of Our people, in the limitation of the power and other circumstances, We shall recede from nothing We formerly expressed in that Answer to your Order, otherwise We must declare to all the world, That We are not satisfied with or shall ever allow our Subjects to be bound by your printed Votes, of the fifteenth or sixteenth of this month, or that under pretense of declaring what the Law of the Land is, you shall without Vs make a new Law, which is plainly the case of the *Militia*: and what is this but to introduce an Arbitrary way of government.

Concerning

Concerning Your Speech, you will have found by what the Lord *Compton*, and Mr. *Bowles* brought from Vs, in answer to that Message they brought to Vs, that as yet Wee see nothing satisfied in that particular.

As for the seditious Pamphlets and Sermons, We are both sorry and ashamed in so great a variety, and in which Our Rights, Honour and Authority, are so insolently slighted and vilified, and in which the Dignity and freedome of Parliament is so much invaded and violated, it should be asked of Vs to name any; the mentioning of the *Protestation Protested*, the *Apprentises Protestation*, *To your Tents O Israel*, or any other, would bee too great an excuse for the rest. If you thinke them not worth your enquiry, We have done. But We thinke it most strange to be told, That our denyall of a Guard (which wee yet never denyed, but granted in another manner, and under a command at that time most accustomed in the Kingdome) or the denyall of any thing else (which is in Our power legally to deny) which in Our understanding (of which surely God hath given Vs some use) is no fit to be granted, should be any excuse for so dangerous concourse of people, which not only in our apprehension, but (We believe) in the interpretation of Law it self, hath been alwayes held most tumultuous and seditious. And Wee must wonder, what, and whence comes the Instructions and Informations that those people have, who can so easily thinke themselves obliged by the Protestation to assemble in such a manner, for the defence of Priviledges, which cannot be so clearely knowne to any of them, and so negligently passe over the consideration, and defence of our Rights so beneficiall and necessary for themselves, & scarce unknown to any of them, which by their Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy (and even by the same Protestation) they are at least equally obliged to defend. And what interruptions such kind of Assemblies may be to the freedom of future Parliaments (if not seasonably discountenanced and suppressed) We must advise you to consider, as likewise whether both our powers may not by such meanes bee usurped, by hands not trusted by the Constitution of this Kingdome. For our Guard wee refer you to Our answer to your Declaration,

By that Question of violating your Lawes; by which We endevoured to expresse Our care and resolution to observe them; We did not expect you would have been invited to have looked back so many yeeres, for which you have had so ample Reparation: Neither looked wee to be reproached with the Actions of our Ministers (then against the Laws) whilst Wee expresse so great a zeale for the present defence of them; it being our resolution, upon observation of the mischiefe which then grew by Arbitrary power (though made plausible to us by the suggestions of necessity and imminent danger, and take you heed yee fall not into the same errour upon the same suggestions) hereafter to keep the Rule our selfe, and to our power require the same from all others: But above all, Wee must be most sensible of what you exact upon Vs for requitall of those good Bills you cannot deny. We have denyed any such Designe, and as God Almighty must judge in that poynt between us, who knowes our upright intention at the passing those Lawes: So in the meane time We defie the Devill to prove that there was any designe (without knowledge or privity) in or about the time of passing those Bills, that had it taken effect could have deprived our Our Subjects of fruit of them: And therefore We demand full Reparation in this poynt, that we may bee cleared in the sight of all the world and chiefely in the eyes of Our loving Subjects, from so notorious and false an imputation as this is.

We are farre from denying what you have done, For Wee acknowledge the Charge Our people have sustained in keeping the two Armies, and in relieving Ireland, of

the which we are so sensible, that in regard of those great burthens Our people have undergone, Wee have and doe patiently suffer those extreme personall wants, as Our Predecessors have been seldome put to, rather then we would presse upon them: which We hope (in time) will be considered on your parts.

In our offer of a Generall Pardon, Our intent was to compose and secure the generall condition of Our Subjects, conceiving that in these times of great Distractions, the good Lawes of the Land have not beene enough observed: But it is a strange world when Princes profered Favours are counted Repreaches: yet if you like not this our offer We have done.

Concerning any discourses of Forrain Forces, though we have given you a full Answer in Ours to your last Declaration, yet we must tell you, we have neither so ill an opinion of our owne merit, or the Affections of our good Subjects, as to thinke our selfe in need of any forraine Force to preserve Vs from oppression (and wee shall not need for any other purpose) but are confident (through Gods providence) not to want the good-wishes and assistance of the whole Kingdome, being resolved to build upon that sure foundation, the Law of the Land. And we take it very ill that any generall Discourses between an unknowne Person and a Mariner, or inferences upon Letters should be able to prevaile in matters so improbable in themselves, and scandalous to us, for which we cannot but likewise aske Reparation, not onely for the vindicating of our owne Honour, but also thereby to settle the minds of our Subjects, whose feares and jealousies would soon vanish, were they not fed and maintained by such false and malicious Rumours as these.

For our returne to Our Parliament, Wee have given you a full Answer in Ours to your Declaration, and you ought to look on Vs as not gone but driven (We say not by you, yet) from you. And if it be not so easie for you to make our Residence in *London* so safe as We could desire, We are, and will be contented that our Parliament may be adjourned to such a place, where We may be fitly and safely with you. For though We are not pleased to be at this distance, yet yee are not to expect Our Presence, Vntill you shall both secure Vs concerning Our just apprehensions of Tumultuary insolencies, And likewise give Vs satisfaction for those Insupportable and Insolent Scandals that are raised upon Vs.

To conclude, As We have or shall not refuse any way agreeable to Iustice or Honor, which shall be offered to Vs for the begetting a right understanding betweene Vs. So We are resolved, that no streights or necessities (to which We may be driven) shall ever compell Vs to doe that, which the Reason and Vnderstanding that God hath given Vs, and Our Honour and Interest, with which God hath trusted Vs for the good of Our Posteritie and Kingdomes, shall render unpleasant and grievous unto Vs.

And We assure you that (how meanly soever you are pleased to value the discharge of Our publique dutie) We are so Conscious so to Our Selfe of having done Our part, since this Parliament, that in whatsoever condition We now stand, Wee are confident of the continued Protection from Almightie God, and the constant gratitude, obedience, and affection from Our people: And We shall trust God with all.

To

To the Kings most excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of divers Noblemen and Gentlemen Estated in *Ireland* now at *London.*

Humbly Sheweth,

THat most of Your Petitioners, and many thousands of Your Majesties most faithfull Subjects, and late inhabitants of Your *Kingdom* of Ireland, being robbed, and spoiled of all their substance (and thereby many of them reduced to a most miserable condition, who formerly faithfully served your Majesty) are now enforced to flee into this *Kingdome*, by occasion of the unexampled, bloodie, and unhumane cruelties of the Rebels of that *Kingdome*, who through the instigation of popish priests, Friers and Jesuites, and other malignant persons, have risen in Armes in that *Kingdome* against your Majesties Crowne and Dignity, and destroied, or banished almost all Your Majesties loyall and dutifull Subjects the Protestants there, for no other cause, but for that they doe not worship God after their Idolatrous and superstitious manner; which is manifest by their publike Declarations, Speeches, Oaths, and Confederacies (albeit some few other fond pretences are added, to gloss their most barbarous actions) That these foure moneths past, the expectation of powerfull Supplies, Treasure, and Ammunition, from England and Scotland, hath supported the drooping and languishing spirits of Your Petitioners and others, the Protestants, interessed in that Kingdome, who finding but small succors hitherto sent thither, notwithstanding the severall Orders of both Houses of Parliament, do now with unspeakable griefe of heart, apprehend nothing but despaire of ever being restored to their habitations, if your Majesty be not graciously pleased to give life and power to the painfull endeavours of both Houses of Parliament, the prosecution of that Warre necessarily requiring a great sum of money to be presently raised. And in all humility, the Petitioners conceive, the Act lately passed by Your Majesties Royall Grace and goodnesse, (upon the Propositions made by those who shal venture their moneyes) to be the onely way left for raising present money for that worke; And they finde that the removall of Your sacred Majestie to places so remote, and distant from the Parliament, doth much discourage the Adventurers, in advancing moneyes for effectuall proceeding in the worke, and consequently will be a meanes unavoidably to retard the long expected Supplies, contrary to Your Majesties Royall intentions often expressed, and will much encourage the Rebels and their adherents in that Kingdome, and may in the opinion of some, (as they feare) gaine a belieſe of those false reports, which divers of the Rebels have taken the boldnesse to raise, even very lately, since the publishing of your Majesties Proclamation for suppressing the Rebels, that they are your Majesties Souldiers, and that the supplies that arrived there, were but the Parliament Supplies. And Your Petitioners further humbly shew, That if strong Forces be not presently raised, and transported thither, (the season of the yeere now serving) the Brittish and Protestants in that *Kingdome* cannot long subsist, but will be extirpated, and papists, and the Idolatrous Masse thereby established, which is already publikely used in most of the Churches of that *Kingdome*.

May it therefore please your most sacred Majesty, to reflect upon the desperate, and miserable condition of that poore *Kingdome*, and weighing the premisses, and other the Consequences of delaying the effectuall setting forward of the War against the Rebels in Ireland; of Your Princely goodnesse and wisedome, to vouchsafe Your Majesties presence unto Your Parliament, for the encovragement of the Adventurers, and all other Your Majesties good Subjects, in this pious worke; for the discouragement of the Rebells, and for expediting such further Acts, Commissions, and Warrants to issue, as shall bee requisite for the preservation of the remnant of Your good Subjects, the Protestants yet left in Ireland, or driven for the present thereout.

And your Supplicants will pray, &c.

At the Court at Yorke, 26. *Martii.* 1642.

HIS Majesty hath given me expresse command to give you this His Answer to your Petition, that this Petition (as some others of this nature) is grounded upon mis-information, and [illegible] highly offended, to see how His good people have been and are abu-

sed by false Rumours and Intelligences, which have procured causeless feares and Apprehensions; refers the petitioners to the two Answers He hath given to His Parliament, viz. to the Declaration presented to Him at New-Market, and to the Petition presented to him the 26. of this moneth at Yorke: Wherein you will clearely perceive that His Majesty is not gone, but driven from his Parliament; And therefore his Majestie hath reason to think, that now, (understanding the Love He bears to, and Confidence He hath of his peoples fidelity; as likewise His constant Resolution for the maintaining of, and governing by the Lawes of the Land) you may finde reason to Petition the Parliament to comply with His Majesties just Desires and gracious Offers, this being the onely way safely and speedily to cure the present Distractions of this Kingdome and (with Gods blessing) to put a happy end to the Irish Rebellion, for the effecting whereof (as His Majestie hath often said) He will neither spare paines, nor decline any hazard of His person or Fortune. *Signed by Mr. Secretary* Nicholas.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of His Majesties Loving Subjects in the County of LINCOLNE

IN all humility representing as our thankfullest acknowledgments to God, and to Your Majestie of the great blessings which we have for these many yeares enjoyed under your Gracious Government, and particularly, the blessed fruits of this present Parliament, by your Majesties wisedome and goodnesse assembled, whereby many wholsome Lawes have been enacted for the great honour of Your Majesty, relefe of Your people, the prosperous Governement of this, and happy setling of the late troubles in both Kingdomes: So our saddest Regrete for any the least misunderstanding and differences which have hapned betwixt Your sacred Majesty and the said Parliament, or any Members of the same, with our many Distractions thereupon and feares of the utter ruine of Your Majesty and Your Royall posterity and Kingdoms, by the malicious and insolent Designes of the Popish partie, and the advantage that forreign enemies may easily take thereby.

Humbly prostrating our selves at your Majesties feet, most affectionately pray, that Your Majestie and Parliament may by all good meanes be firmly United. And for that purpose, you would Graciously please to reside neare and listen unto the Faithfull Counsels of Your said Parliament, whereby Romish Idolatry and Superstition may be extirpated. Church and Common-wealth duly reformed, the true Religion, and all things else setled in a blessed peace under Your Majesties Government. And we shall have still further cause to continue our chcerefull aids, both of persons and estates for Your Majesties and Your Kingdomes prosperity and honour, And ever pray for Your Majesties long and happy Reigne over us.

At the Court at *Yorke*, 28 *Martii*. 1642.

HIS Majesty hath given me expresse command to give you this his answer to your Petition: That this Petition (as some others of this nature) is grounded upon misinformation, and (being grieved and highly offended, to see how his good people have been, and are abused, by false Rumours and Intelligences which have procured causeless feares, and apprehensions, refers the Petitioners to the two Answers he hath given to His Parliament, *viz.* to the Declaration presented to him at New-Market, and to the petition presented to him the 26. of this moneth at Yorke; wherein you will clearely perceive, that His Majestie is not gone, but driven from his Parliament: And therefore his Majesty hath reason to thinke, that now (understanding the love he bears to, and confidence he hath of his peoples fidelity, as likewise his constant Resolution for the maintaining of, and Governing by the Lawes of the Land) you may finde reason to petition the Parliament to comply with his Majesties just desires, and gracious offers, This being the only way safely and speedily to cure the present Distractions of this Kingdom, and (with Gods blessing) to put a happy end to the Irish Rebellion: For the effecting whereof (as his Majesty hath often said) he will neither spare pains, nor decline any hazard of his person, or fortune.

FINIS.